

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**County:** YUBA

**Applicant:** TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

**Project Title:** COLLINS LAKE ACQUISITION PROJECT (SILLER PROPERTY)

**Reference Number:** SNC 070243

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The project would acquire a 529-acre parcel at Collins Lake in the Yuba River watershed for protection of natural resource values. The property contains approximately one mile of Dry Creek and extensive Blue Oak woodland habitat. The Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, the University of California Sierra Foothills Research, and Extension Center and federal Bureau of Land Management lands surround the parcel. The acquisition would fill gaps in the contiguous wildlife habitat. Grant dollars received from SNC will be applied toward the acquisition of this parcel, with an appraised value of \$1,851,500. In addition, SNC funding will be matched with other public funds that will leverage the protection of two additional sites in the Mt. Lassen area (sites in Perazzo Meadows and Castle Peak, totaling 1,383 acres), due to an arrangement with the property owner who owns all three sites.

Specific actions that would successfully complete this project include:

- Complete the funding package for the three priority parcels;
- Initiate long-term management plan;
- Acquire the Collins Lake parcel to protect habitat values.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Due Diligence review	March 2008
Determine long-term stewardship	June 2008
Receive balance of acquisition funding	October 2008
Initiate long-term management plan	December 2008
Complete acquisition	December 2008
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>December 31, 2008</b>

**PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
SNC portion of Fee Title acquisition	\$925,750
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$925,750</b>

**Letters of Support:**

Truckee Donner Land Trust  
California Department of Fish and Game- Regional Manager  
California Department of Fish and Game- Unit Biologist

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommendation is to fund a portion of the fee title acquisition at the requested amount of \$925,750.

## **Project Summary**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is submitting this application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support the acquisition of the 529-acre Collins Lake property in Yuba County, California. This project is an ideal candidate for funding because it provides important water quality and habitat benefits within the Lower Yuba River watershed. The Collins Lake property is comprised of rolling hills and meadows of blue oak and gray pine woodlands, and riparian habitat along one mile of Dry Creek. The site is adjacent to the Department of Fish and Game's Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area and other state protected lands. The acquisition and permanent protection of site of this is identified as a state priority in the Daugherty Hill Conceptual Area Protection Plan and TPL's "Yuba Foothills Program" that seeks to create a protected corridor of blue oak woodland and riparian habitat from Coon Creek in Placer County, north to Collins Lake in Yuba County.

The values of the Collins property make this project an ideal candidate for a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. However, this project is unique in that the transactional structure of this acquisition project is married to the acquisition of at least two other high-value projects in the Sierra region. As such, a grant from SNC will not only protect the Collins Lake site, but it will also be an integral part of protecting an additional 1,383 acres in Sierra and Nevada Counties.

The sale of the Collins Lake site is packaged with other properties owned by Siller Brothers, Inc, each of which must be sold in a single transaction with The Trust for Public Land. Consequently, the success of each project is contingent upon the success of the others. Two of the other properties that are part of this Siller Bros. package include the 400-acre Castle Peak and the 983-acre Perazzo Meadows properties. Because the protection of Castle Peak and Perazzo Meadows is contingent upon the success of the Collins Lake project, an investment from SNC is critical to the success of all three projects.

The Castle Peak site is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service lands and is situated on the eastern border of the proposed Castle Peak Wilderness Area. With 1 mile of frontage of North Creek, the Castle Peak project protects fisheries habitat and local drinking water supplies. The 983-acre Perazzo acre contains 2.5 mile of frontage on the Little Truckee River and excellent riverine and montane riparian habitat, wetland meadow habitat, and upland acres of lodgepole pine, white fir, and aspens. A fourth site, the 160-acre Martis Valley property, is also an optional part of this Siller Brothers Package.

A \$925,750 grant from the SNC will be applied toward the acquisition of the 529-acre Collins Lake property and will be matched 1:1 with other public funds. In doing so, this SNC grant will also leverage the protection of the 1,383 acres that comprise the Perazzo Meadows and Castle Peak sites at a 5:1 ratio. If the Martis Valley site is included, this would increase the SNC leverage ratio to 6:1.

Each of the properties included in the Collins Lake acquisition package have distinct benefits for protecting Sierra Nevada rivers, lakes and streams, and their watersheds. Each site also provides excellent natural resources and habitat values. In total, these three properties will protect 1,912 acres in three Sierra counties and in two SNC sub-regions. These properties contain more than 4.5 mile of direct river and stream frontage within the Yuba and Truckee River watersheds. Each of these sites is contiguous to other protected lands, helping safeguard large swaths of unfragmented oak woodland, wetland meadow, and conifer forests that provide wildlife habitat and movement corridors.